

was determined by the procedure described in Example 2A. Alternatively, SSI can be obtained from Wako in Japan, catalog no. 303-05201, manufactured by Daiwa Kasei K.K.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add claims 14-22:

14. An animal feed additive comprising (a) at least one purified acid-stable protease and (b) one or more fat soluble vitamins, water soluble vitamins, and trace minerals, wherein the protease is of the subtilisin family and/or has less than 10% residual activity when inhibited with a molar excess *Streptomyces* subtilisin inhibitor.

15. The animal feed additive of claim 14, wherein the amount of the purified protease corresponds to 0.01-200 mg protease protein per kg feed.

16. The animal feed additive of claim 14, wherein the protease is a *Bacillus*, NCIMB 40484 protease.

17. An animal feed composition having a crude protein content of 50-800 g/kg comprising the animal feed additive of claim 14 and a vegetable protein or protein source.

18. The animal feed composition of claim 17, which further comprises at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of phytase, xylanase, galactanase, and beta-glucanase.

19. The animal feed composition of claim 17, wherein the protease is a *Bacillus*, NCIMB 40484 protease.

20. A method for the improving the nutritional value of a vegetable protein or protein source, comprising adding an animal feed additive of claim 14 to the vegetable protein or protein source.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the vegetable protein comprises soybean.